

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition isolated from a cereal grain containing  $\beta$ -glucan, comprising: a  $\beta$ -glucan composition ~~compound~~ having a weight average molecular weight ranging from about 50 kDa to about ~~250 kDa~~ 1000 kDa, ~~wherein said  $\beta$ -glucan compound is a modified form of a cereal  $\beta$ -glucan; and, wherein a 1% mixture by weight of said dietary fiber composition and water is highly stable and has a viscosity of about 1500 cps or less, and wherein the dietary fiber containing material has a neutral, non-lubricious mouthfeel.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 1, wherein said dietary fiber  $\beta$ -glucan composition has a protein content of less than about 3% by weight.
3. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 1, wherein said  $\beta$ -glucan composition ~~compound~~ comprises at least 30% of the dietary fiber composition by weight.
4. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 2, wherein said  $\beta$ -glucan composition ~~compound~~ comprises at least 40% of the dietary fiber composition by weight.
5. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 3, wherein said  $\beta$ -glucan composition ~~compound~~ comprises at least 70% of the dietary fiber composition by weight.

Claims 6-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 6, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the  $\beta$ -glucan composition ranges from about 100 kDa to about 250 kDa.

11. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 10, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the  $\beta$ -glucan composition ranges from about 120 kDa to about 170 kDa.
12. (Original) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity is about 100 cps or less.
13. (Original) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 12, wherein the viscosity is about 60 cps or less.
14. (Original) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 13, wherein the viscosity is about 5 or less.
15. (Original) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 1, wherein said dietary fiber composition has a fat content of about 2% or less.
16. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is incorporated into a food ~~or beverage~~ product.
17. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 16, wherein the food ~~or beverage~~ product is a food product selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of baked goods, cereal, extruded snacks, meat substitutes, bars, salad dressings, soup, sauces, yogurt, frozen desserts, refrigerated and frozen doughs, and confections.
18. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 17, wherein the food ~~or beverage~~ product is a baked good selected ~~chosen~~ from the group consisting of breads, rolls, buns, corn bread, quick breads, doughnuts, muffins, bagels, flatbreads, pancakes, waffles, cookies, cakes, pastries, croissants, scones, biscuits, crackers, pretzels, tortillas, taco shells, pasta, pie crusts, and pizza crusts, ~~and bakery mixes~~.

19. (Original) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 18, wherein the baked good is a white bread further comprising bread flour, all-purpose shortening, sugar, salt, calcium sulfate, dough conditioner, yeast, water and wheat gluten.
20. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 17, wherein the food or beverage product is a bar ~~selected~~ ~~chosen~~ from ~~the group consisting of~~ meal replacement bars, energy bars, high protein bars, granola bars, unfilled cereal bars, and filled cereal bars.
21. (Original) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 20, wherein the bar is a meal replacement bar further comprising soy protein, calcium caseinate, whey protein concentrate, vitamin and mineral premix, salt, high fructose corn syrup, high maltose corn syrup, honey, canola oil, soybean oil, and water.
22. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 16, wherein the food ~~or beverage~~ product is a soup further comprising water, chicken broth, maltodextrin, soup ~~sup~~ base, modified food starch, whey protein concentrate, soybean salad oil, mono- and diglycerides, and water.
23. (Currently Amended) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 16, wherein the food ~~or beverage~~ product is a yogurt, further comprising liquid sucrose, and high fructose corn syrup.
24. (Withdrawn – non-elected species) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 16, wherein the food or beverage product is a beverage product chosen from juice, juice drinks, milk, milk drinks, meal replacement beverages, diet and weight control beverages, powdered drink mixes, dairy-based drinks, dairy and non-dairy creamers, soy-based and rice-based beverages, energy and sports drinks, high-protein drinks, carbonated drinks, gel drinks, water and near water, tea-based beverages, coffee-based beverages, fruit and vegetable-based drinks, and smoothies.

25. (Withdrawn – non-elected species) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 24, wherein the food product is a juice drink further comprising fruit juice concentrate, high intensity sweeteners, acidulant, and water.

Claims 26-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising: a  $\beta$ -glucan composition in amount sufficient to lower LDL-C, wherein said  $\beta$ -glucan composition comprises a  $\beta$ -glucan compound having a weight average molecular weight less than or equal to about 200 kDa, and wherein said  $\beta$ -glucan composition has a viscosity less than or equal to about 100 cps, and a 1% mixture by weight of said dietary fiber composition and water is highly stable and has a viscosity of about 1500 cps or less, and wherein the dietary fiber containing material has a neutral, non-lubricious mouthfeel.

Claims 33-52 (Cancelled)

53. (New) A dietary fiber composition according to claim 1, wherein said dietary fiber composition has a fat content of about 1% or less.